Chapter 9: The Universe

Vocabulary:

* Satellites: a group of bodies that move around our Sun
* Planets: eight satellites that are the principal members of the Solar System
* Asteroids: billions of fast moving rocks larger than 100m in diameter
* Meteoroid: fast-moving rocks smaller than 100m in diameter
* Planet’s year: the time needed for a planet to complete one revolution around the Sun
* Axis: imaginary line that runs through the north and south poles of a planet where it rotates
* Planet’s day: The time needed for a planet to make one complete rotation on its axis called
* Moons: smaller satellites that revolve around a planet
* Fragmentation: breaking of some of the objects into smaller chunks
* Newton’s first law of motion: a body at rest will remain at rest unless some force starts it moving, and a body that is moving will continue to move in the same direction at the same speed unless some force acts on that body to change its direction and speed.
* Newton’s law of gravitation: every body in the universe attracts or pulls on every other body
* Red Spot: a place on Jupiter that moves around irregularly as it rotates counterclockwise in the planet’s southern hemisphere.
* Meteor: sudden, brief streak of light in the night sky caused by friction between air molecules in Earth’s atmosphere and an incoming piece of interplanetary matter
* Meteorites: meteors that do strike the Earth’s surface before they completely burn up
* Meteor showers: swarms of meteor
* Ellipse: orbit
* Summer solstice: the beginning of summer, June 21
* Winter solstice: the beginning of winter, December 22
* Equinox: when days and nights are of equal length
* Highlands: an elevated region; plateau
* Regolith: the layer of loose material covering the bedrock of the earth and moon, comprising soil, sand, rock fragments, volcanic ash, glacial drift
* New moon: More than half but less than fully illuminated. Used to describe the Moon or a planet.
* Full moon: the moon when the whole of its disk is illuminated, occurring when in opposition to the sun.
* Waxing moon: the moon at any time after new moon and before full moon, so called because its illuminated area is increasing
* Waning moon: the tide at its highest level of elevation.
* Flood tide: The period between low tide and high tide, during which water flows toward the shore.
* Direct tide: the occurrence of high tide on one side of the earth coinciding with high tide on the opposite side
* Low tide: the large rise and fall of the tide at or soon after the new or the full moon.